MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I want to know whether, after the leakages are completely closed, any water will be let down for the use of the people who live down below.

PRESIDENT : You mean 'allowed.'

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : I do not quite understand the question.

PRESIDENT : It seems to me that he wants to know whether, after the leakages are closed, when you may have about 42 or 40 feet of water, you would allow the people in the neighbourhood to make use of the water for domestic purposes also.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I want to make myself clear. My question is whether, after closing all the leakages, there will be possibility of any water flowing down the river.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : Certainly, when the lake is full and water flows over surplus weir.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I ask how the member makes out a case for the closing of the leakages when there is no water to leak? Where is the urgent necessity for a supplementary grant when there is no prospect of water leaking in the near future?

PRESIDENT : Is it the intention of the Honourable Member that the work must wait until water gets stored and actually leaks out?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Expert opinion, as far as I have been able to gather, is that leakages are best closed when water is actually leaking. It seems the cement will close the leakages most effectively when there is water leaking. Why not the Government wait till we get water in the lake, till the water actually leaks out?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : The only place to prevent water leaking is at the water face of the dam and not at the back.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Sivatanu Pillai might have got his opinion from some other expert.

The Demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VIII—EXCISE.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5,728, (Rs. 4,400 for transport charges of salt under 3B.—Salt—Salt Business, and Rs 1,328 for staff for the Sri Chitra Tirunal Muthusvami Salt Factory and for the Tattarippu Odai Salt Factory.

Sir, usually, we provide a budget allotment of about a lakh of rupees for transport charges of salt. But, for the current year, only a sum of Rs. 50,000 was provided. The reason for that was that, out of a provision of about Rs. 90,000 for this purpose in the budget for 1109,

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only very little was spent. Last year only about 1,15,000 maunds of salt was available for transport from the factories to the depots. The crop was a failure in 1108 as well as during the first eight months of 1109, so that actually only less than one-third of the budget provision of Rs. 90,000 was spent under this item. When the budget was prepared last year, the prospect of salt manufacture was really very gloomy. Till the end of Meenam 1109, the total out-put in the factories was only about three lakhs of maunds. We were under the impression that there would not be much salt for transport and that we would be obliged to import salt from Bombay and Tuticorin for supply to our depots. Therefore only a small sum of Rs. 50,000—that is, about half the sum usually provided for this purpose—was provided for in the budget. But fortunately, the season became very favourable from Medom onwards; and while the total quantity manufactured in the first eight months of the year was only three and one-third lakhs of maunds, in the next four months we got nearly double that quantity. And, this year also the season has been exceptionally favourable. We have produced more salt than is necessary for our consumption for one year. We were therefore able to transport over two lakhs of maunds from the factories to our depots with the result that much more than the budget provision has become necessary for meeting the transport charges. That is the main reason for this supplementary demand.

I may also add that the rates quoted by the tenderers this year were slightly higher than those quoted last year. That is also another reason why a supplementary demand has become necessary.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Has there been any reason why the rates have been higher this year?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Tenders are invited, sealed tenders are submitted: and the lowest tender is accepted. We have really no control over the rates. But I am reliably informed that it was due to cut-throat competition last year that the rates went so low and that the tenderer actually lost heavily in the contract. I may also inform the House that this year's tender, although a bit higher than the last year's, is much lower than those of all the previous years.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know whether last year's contractor has got this year's contract also?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): And on better terms?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Rates are higher than last year, but lower than all the previous years.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the lowest tender was accepted?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Whether the transport is by land or by sea?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): By sea.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether transport by sea is cheaper than transport by land?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Transport by land is not feasible except to Trivandrum. Transport to other places is far cheaper by sea?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether there is any agency in Travancore engaged in transport by sea?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): In 1108, the transport to two of the depots was given to a Travancorean.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know the individual who is responsible for the name 'Sri Chitra Tirunal Muthuswami Salt Factory'?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The factory is owned by Mr. Muthuswami Karayalar and he applied to His Highness the Maha Raja for permission for giving that name. His Highness gave the permission.

PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has no right to drag the name of His Highness the Maha Raja on the floor of the House.

MR E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I wish to know whether it was with the permission of Government that this name was given to the factory. The House takes very strong objection to that name.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The name was given by the owner.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the member is aware that there are statutes in Travancore under which certain names are not allowed to be affixed to any institution? I refer to the Companies Regulation.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): I wish to know whether this question has anything to do with the Demand before the House.

PRESIDENT: Nothing at all.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): With regard to the demand before the House, may I know from the Honourable Member how long the Tattarippu Odai Salt Factory has been working as a Salt Factory?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I have not come to that point, Sir. I have only touched upon the first item, namely, transport charges of salt.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Then I will continue my question when the member has concluded.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I have explained the circumstances under which I was obliged to come before the House for the first item of demand. I will now come to the next item. The Sri

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Chitra Tirunal Muthusvami Salt Factory and the Tattarippu Odai Salt Factory have been newly opened. The Tattarippu Odai Salt Factory was opened last year and the other factory was opened in Makaram this year. Both factories are in working order, and salt is being manufactured. When salt is being manufactured, there must be staff for supervising the manufacture and sale of salt. Thus, for the Sri Chitra Tirunal Muthuswami Factory a staff, consisting of one First Grade Sub-Inspector, one Second Grade Petty Officer, and one Fourth Grade Petty Officer and twelve peons is proposed to be appointed. For the Tattarippu Odai Factory one Second Grade Sub-Inspector, two Petty Officers and ten peons are proposed. Provision is made for their pay and local allowance for three months in the year, As the salt factories have been licensed, and salt is being manufactured. the appointment of a staff is inevitable. I, therefore, move that the pay and local allowance for the staff proposed be sanctioned.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Which are the three months for which the demand is made ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Medam, Edavam and Mithunam of this year. For the first two months, funds were provided otherwise.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Am I to understand that the staff has been appointed from Medam first ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): For one factory the staff was already sanctioned.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know whether they have been appointed from 1st Medam and whether they have been paid for their work from 1st Medam ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The pay and allowances for the first two months have been found otherwise. Their pay for Medam, Edavam and Mithunam will be given after the grant is sanctioned.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Am I to understand that the pay for Medam has not been given till now ?

PRESIDENT : Not until the grant is sanctioned.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : What is the distance between the two factories ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The distance will be between three and four miles.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether it will not be possible for the existing staff to look after these factories also ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : It will not be possible.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know how long the Tattarippu Odai factory has been working ?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): For about a year.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether there is not already a staff working in that factory?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): A Petty Officer and peons have been taken from the Colachel Factory.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether there is not already a salt factory working near that factory called Sri Raghava Allom?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether, considering the short distance between these two factories, it is not possible to have the Tattarippu Odai Factory looked after by the staff of the other factory?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): A Sub-Inspector is looking after the issue of salt. More than that he is not able to do.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Have those people who were employed from Medam agreed to go without their pay in case this House refuses the grant?

PRESIDENT: They have not yet been told about the grant.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I oppose the Demand. My object in opposing the Demand is to bring to the attention of Government the question whether it is not time for reviewing the question of the manufacture of salt.

PRESIDENT: I cannot hear you. Are you making a speech or asking a question?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I am making a speech.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I point out that Mr. Nilakantan is speaking on a question of policy.

PRESIDENT: I cannt hear him at all. What is it you are aiming at, Mr. Nilakantan?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I am speaking about a question of policy relating to the manufacture of salt, namely, that everything should be left to private agency.

PRESIDENT: You want a change of policy?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise on a Supplementary Demand.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I oppose the motion before the House.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Before that, I wish to know whether one can support one portion of it and oppose the other.

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamitta*): Mr. Narayana Pillai has not stated which portion he opposes.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I have not yet begun to speak. There are two heads under this Demand, namely, one relating to transport of salt from salt pans to some centres in North Travancore like Alleppey and the other relates to the staff for the newly started salt factories.

In regard to the first part, in 1108, it was stated that the charges for the transport of salt from South Travancore to North Travancore were abnormally low owing to competition. I know the contractor for that year, who, probably is not the contractor this year. He must have been unwillingly obliged to withdraw from the field of transport contract. I was present on one occasion when he was complaining to the Dewan about the nature of the treatment meted out to him by the department presided over by the present Commissioner. If the rates have gone up on account of the treatment accorded to rival competitors in the field, the department has to take the blame on itself.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): The rates have gone up now?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Yes, I think so.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know the name of the contractor?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): A merchant from Tuticorin by name Mr. Caitan. He was doing the business of transport of salt for a number of years. His rates were high. There was the possibility of a margin of profit even if the rates were reduced. So another contractor went in. But that contractor found it impossible to pull well on with the department.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): What is the name of that contractor?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): One Mr. Krishna Aiyar.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): (*cannot hear.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I do not hear the question. Unless the member makes himself audible, it is impossible to answer him.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Was that contractor allowed to come in this year?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Might have been. That is why I say when there are rivalry and competition .....

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): May I inform the member that Mr. T. V. Krishna Aiyar had submitted his tender this year also? But it could not be accepted because it was higher than the one accepted.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): It is quite possible. It is due to competition that Mr. Kaitan reduced his rates.

PRESIDENT: To the advantage of Government.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : But the Government seem prepared to compensate the contractor, if it goes hard with him.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I shall quote the rates of Mr. Krishna Aiyar this year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : There is a complete contract between the Government and the contractor. The parties are bound by the contract. The contractor cannot be heard to complain of unexpected losses or be allowed to demand a higher rate than the one agreed upon. The Government should not be asked to modify the terms.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1 P. M. and re-assembled at 2 P. M., the Deputy President presiding.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Sir, while I was speaking about the rates I heard a murmer from the learned Excise Commissioner that I was on the wrong track in-as-much as no such question of that comes up in the present instance. I did not misunderstand the position at all. I referred to the question of rates simply for the purpose of illustrating the conclusiveness of the contract in regard to its terms.

Proceeding further I wish to bring to the notice of the House that a contract for the transport of salt would be precise in regard to the quantity that has to be transported from one part of the country to another ; it is either fixed definitely or after making a definite provision with respect to a definite quantity to be transported and advantage made variable according to additional percentages of the original amount as might be stipulated.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Does the member know that the terms of the contract will vary ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : I will come to that if necessary. Here there is certainly in existence a contract for the transport of a definite quantity of salt from one place to another. From the nature of the supplementary demand made in the present instance I gather that over and above what was originally contracted, there has been an over-production or under-estimate of salt this year to be transported, and necessity arises therefore for a supplementary demand.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : There is no such thing. The member is entirely mistaken.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Thanks for the kind observation of the member.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I do not think it is right to correct a member in that way. If the Excise Commissioner has any personal explanation to offer, he is at liberty to do so. But, if at every stage, such corrections are made, it will lead to difficulties.

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): My point is since the member is evidently mistaken about facts, he will be going on arguing in that wrong line and it will be wasting the time of the House.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am very sorry to hear one member say that another member will be wasting the time of the House. It is out of order. Sometimes members have to be corrected in respect of facts. But, before a member finishes his speech if another member gets up ad infinitum it will be troublesome. In the interest of discussion it will be quite good for the ember to Mmake a brief personal explanation

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I did not mean any disrespect to the Honourable Member. In fact from the nature of the personal relationship between us I can never be disrespectful towards him.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Information on the personal relationship that existed between one member and another is not a matter for the House. Every member has certain rights.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Before understanding what I am aiming at, the Excise Commissioner thought—

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): I thought we are going to hear something useful from Mr. Madhavan.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Again, on the point I am going to place before the House. From his speech what I understood was this—I speak subject to correction. He is at liberty to say what his speech meant actually though the words imported another thing. There was an unexpected production of salt this year and the necessity arose for transporting it. If that were so, I say it was an unexpected thing, a matter not covered by the contract with the contractor. Hence the Excise Commissioner could not foresee and accordingly he demanded a lesser amount in the previous year's budget. It is something unforeseen *viz.*, the over-production of salt. That has now to be tackled by this Demand. Otherwise, he should have certainly included it in the previous year's budget. Whether this amount that is now demanded is for the salt included in any particular contract or not is the point we are at. If it is included, no further Demand could have been made. On that score, this Demand has to be turned down. If it is not included in any contract, then a fresh engagement will have to be entered into with some contractor for the transport of it. If so where is the necessity for referring to the rates contained in the previous tenders, I am unable to see. On the other hand, he has to call for fresh tenders and probably competitors will come forward prepared to transport salt from one part of the country to another. Probably the Commissioner wants to close all doors and wants a supplementary demand to be passed through this House without allowing any other contractor to come in. In other words if it is an independent contract not covered by the existing contract, the procedure ought to have been different.

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Again the next question is whether this quantity is to be transported, or has been transported. If that has been transported, the Commissioner has been incurring an expenditure without the sanction of this House. If it has not been transported but remains to be transported, transport this year is impossible. It is well known, that after the monsoon sets in, no transport takes place from south to north Travancore. The transport is through the sea and the monsoon prohibits the transport. Today is 8th Edavom and the monsoon is in clear sight. Therefore during this year no transport is possible. If transport is yet to take place, a demand for a supplementary grant like this, is quite out of order. It can afford to wait till the next year and the matter can be considered in the regular budget. According to my information, transport is possible only after Chingom and even later. Anyhow, no light has been thrown on this question by the learned member. Therefore I am attacking this portion as stoutly as possible. The Excise Commissioner himself did not make the point clear in his speech but is finding fault with persons who oppose this Demand. He was only continually saying that they are in the wrong without telling them what is right. That is the position.

Then there are some items of expenditure allotted for staff. In these days of economic depression, when the State is going through a *financial crisis* it ought to be the endeavour of every departmental head to so economise the staff pertaining to his department as far as possible. Here, as has been suggested by Mr. Pacode Narayana Pillai, it is quite possible with the staff existing at Raghava allom and some other stations, to so arrange matters as to economise the expenditure. Therefore that part of the demand savours extravagance. On the whole, Sir, with regard to this demand of the Excise Commissioner who seems to cherish even now deep feelings of respect towards me, it is my painful duty to oppose the Demand as it stands.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: If the Excise Commissioner has to make any personal explanation, I can allow him to do so now.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I have nothing to say by way of personal explanation.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I wish to oppose the Demand. My objection is based on the fact that the expenditure had been incurred already on the new staff without the sanction of this House. Sir, in the report of the Public Accounts Committee, I think, the Dewan made a specific promise that in cases where new and emergent expenditure becomes inevitable, he will, in future, take particular care to see that at least the Finance Committee is consulted, before any new expenditure is incurred or arrangements for the new expenditure are made. That promise has not been kept up that is my main charge. The statement laid on the table will show that, the Finance Committee could have been consulted. It has been promised that, when such occasions arise, the Finance Committee *at least* will be consulted. What is the use of that promise? What is the value of that promise? I ask, what is the attitude shown to the House in this respect? That is the first point.

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MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Is it the member's idea that this Demand was not placed before the Committee that met a few days ago?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): My point is, an expenditure was incurred as early as Medom. In the Finance Committee that recently met in Medom the expenditure was budgeted. The arrangements were made before consulting the Finance Committee. That is, this question was brought before the Finance Committee a day after the fare, for sanction. But the Government could have consulted at the time when the proposal came, when they decided to make the appointment. That is the point that I want to stress for the consideration of this House.

Secondly, the difficulty arose for Government because there were no regular sessions of this House. But they ought to have met. In the regular course the Assembly ought to have met by the end of Meenam or by the beginning of Medam.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That does not arise; you cannot stress that point.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I am putting it as an argument to throw out this demand.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I said you cannot stress that point.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I am merely pointing that out. Deliberately the House has not been given an opportunity to record its opinion on this Demand. On that ground also I urge that this demand should be thrown out.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I am sorry that although I explained the circumstances under which I move for the supplementary grant, I have not been sufficiently understood by some members of this House. In the first place, the Honourable Member who opposed my motion seems to be under the impression that, in addition to the original agreement, there has been some other agreement and some other arrangements. He said that therefore fresh tenders should be called for. From that I take it that he is under the impression that after giving the contract additional quantity of salt became available. That seems to be the impression he has got. I am sorry that I could not make my position clear. There is no such thing. Budget estimates are sent up by Medam at the latest.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know from the member whether the original contract was for the transport of a particular quantity of salt or for the transport of all the salts required for the whole year?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Only for a specified quantity.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Then, how does the question of additional quantity arise?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I have already explained it. I shall once again explain it. Last year when the budget estimate was sent up the expectation was that there will not be a sufficient quantity of salt to be transported.

Hence instead of a lakh of Rupees usually allotted for this purpose only Rs. 60,000 was provided for the transport of salt for this year.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know the terms of the contract; the quantity to be transported and the rate?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I shall come to that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think Mr. C. O. Madhavan may be left to himself for some time and when he has finished his speech, questions may be put to him.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): I have no objection to leave him to himself.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: After Mr. Madhavan has said what he has to say, questions may be put to him.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): We have no objection to leaving him to himself. But when he says that we have not understood him—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai understands the meaning of the words "left to himself". I am for allowing Mr. Madhavan to proceed for some time and after that, if members want, questions may be put to him. I think it will be fair too.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, the main cause of the supplementary demand is that the provision in the original budget is inadequate for this year.

This year a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been provided, in 1105 Rs. 1,00,000, in 1106, Rs. 1,21,000, in 1107, Rs. 1,23,000, in 1108, Rs. 1,00,000, and in 1109, Rs. 90,000 had been provided. But for the year 1110 the provision is only Rs. 50,000. That is the chief reason why the supplementary demand is made. Now I shall explain why only this Rs. 50,000 has been provided. In 1109, the output in the factory was very poor so that in that year we could not take from the factory as much salt as we anticipated. We had to leave so much salt for local consumption. The prospect at the time of framing the budget was very gloomy. We did not expect that there will be sufficient quantity to be transported to the depots. So only a sum of Rs. 50,000 was provided instead of a lakh of Rupees.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What was the expenditure in 1108?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Rs. 85,098.

That is the reason why only a small provision was made in this year's budget. And that is the reason for the supplementary demand.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know from the member whether, under the contract, the Department is under an obligation to see that all the salt produced is transported by that particular contractor for the whole year?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No such thing. A specific quantity is mentioned in the contract. We are free to reduce or to enhance the quantity by 25 per cent.

RAO SAHIB S PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know whether it is in respect of that particular quantity that the supplementary demand is now made?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Exactly so. I am going to make that position clear. When tenders were invited we had much more quantity of salt in the factories than we originally anticipated. So provision was made in the tender notification for the transport of 2 lakhs maunds of salt. Accordingly tenders were submitted. There were three tenders. As the Honourable Member suggested there was no occasion for turning out any contractor in this respect either. It was mentioned that Mr. T. V. Krishna Iyer was badly treated. There was absolutely no such thing. He himself has submitted his tender for this year also. He was a tenderer for the year 1108. In that year he was successful. It was in that year that he first came to the field. This year also he had submitted his quotations but it could not be accepted because it was much higher than that of Mr. Caitan. Tenders were received for the transport of salt to the three depots; Trivandrum, Quilon and Munambam. The rate for Trivandrum depot by Mr. T. V. Krishna Iyer was Rs. 27 and that of Mr. Caitan Rs. 21-8-0, so that there was a difference of Rs. 5-8-0. Another tender was for Rs 27. Similarly for Quilon also the rate was Rs. 31 by Mr. T. V. Krishna Iyer, Rs. 24 by Rao Sahib Cartan Villavayan and Rs. 32 by Mr. P. S. A. Ambalavana Chettiyar. The quotation for the transport of salt to the Munambam depot by Mr. T. V Krishna Iyer was Rs. 39 and Rs. 29 by Rao Sahib Caitan Villavayan. There was a difference of Rs. 10. We have considered all these rates and accepted the lowest tender. I explain the position to show that there was no unfair treatment. I may also say that I never had any occasion to complain about his transport business and he himself will not complain about any treatment meted out to him.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether he is one of the leading licensees?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think we are going far away from the point. Qualifications of an individual tenderer are not very important questions before the House. The demand is made for certain reasons. In the course of discussion names were mentioned. That is all. I am giving a warning to Mr. Madhavan because he has already exceeded the time.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) Tenders were invited for the transport of 2 lakhs maunds of salt.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether the contractor has transported the entire quantity covered by the contract?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) Yes, he has transported.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know whether it is for the transport of further quantity that this additional amount is now asked for?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There is no additional amount asked for. The budget estimate was not adequate enough. Rs. 50,000 alone was provided in the budget. The charges for 2 lakhs maunds will come to more than Rs. 50,000.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Am I to understand that the contractor has not been paid in full for the transport of 2 lakhs maunds of salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): He has not been paid. His last Bill is pending payment for the sanction of the amount by this House

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : So, am I to understand that this amount is for the payment of the work already done ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, it is for work already done. He was asked to do certain work and he has done it and it only remains for us to pay for the work he has done.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know the dates from which the contractor commenced work and ended it ?

MR C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): He began in Vrischigom and completed by Meenam.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Could not the Commissioner anticipate it somewhere in Dhanu or in Makaram ?

MR C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) · Yes, it could have been anticipated.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether the Commissioner reported the fact to the Government ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, I reported to the Government when I found that more money is wanted, I reported to Government and asked for additional funds. The sum and substance of all this is this We invited tenders for the transport of two lakhs maunds of salt. Tenders were submitted and the lowest tender was accepted. He transported the salt and he has to be paid for the work he has done. He has done his part of the work according to the agreement.

We want a small sum more to satisfy his claim. Here I am before the House for a grant of that amount. It is left to the House to say whether the claim can be put off or refused. The contractor has done work for Government. He can enforce payment on the part of Government anywhere. So, I appeal to the House to make the grant.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : May I know from the member who made that estimate for Rs. 50,000 the Excise Commissioner or the Financial Secretary to Government ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not know whether the question arises.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Krishna Pillai has asked a question which is quite relevant. If the official member thinks he can answer he may do so. The question does arise.

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The estimate was made by me.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether the contractor is legally entitled to realise the amount from Government?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is a question of law and Mr. Madhavan need not answer that. As the Excise Commissioner he has come in for a grant. I do not allow that question.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) The other point relates to the staff for the newly opened salt factories. Salt is a commodity on which Government levy a duty of Re. 1—As. 9 per maund. We derive about 25 lakhs of rupees as revenue on salt. Therefore it is our duty to take proper care of the salt that we manufacture. These salt factories have been opened and have begun to yield a good quantity of salt. The salt has to be taken proper care of and, for that, a staff has to be engaged.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the Government why they did not place the matter before the Finance Committee when they sanctioned the new staff?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The question was placed before the Finance Committee, as far as I can remember. With regard to the amount spent so far, I may inform the member. that only a sanctioned sum was utilised by diversion. Not a cash has been utilised for any purpose without the sanction of Government. The Government are fully competent to divert certain funds from one item to another.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member how the pay for Medam has been met?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not paid yet. It will be paid when the amount is sanctioned by the House.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Are there other sources from which the Government may draw?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There may be small balances under sanctioned items.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether he is aware that in the Public Accounts Committee Report the Dewan definitely promised that such diversions will not be made hereafter?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know from the member whether he has any explanation to offer as to why the matter was not placed before the House in its Makaram session?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The matter had not reached that stage so as to enable me to report to Government sufficiently early. I was then not sure as to when this factory would be opened. The work was going on and I could not possibly say wher the staff would be required. Only when it reached the final stage any thing could be said of it.

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MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know from Government when the Excise Commissioner made up his mind to report that staff was necessary?

MR. C O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, need I answer that question?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Pillai asks "when the Excise Commissioner *thought* it was necessary"?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It was in Makaram that it was thought necessary.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know whether .....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The member has already taken his seat.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): If so, I withdraw my question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Those who are in favour of the demand being granted—

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): A point of order. It was ordered by the President that the whole motion should be divided into two.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Pillai was a little impatient. I am putting the first part *i. e.* Transport Charges of Salt—Rs. 4,400.

The Demand was put to vote and passed.

Part (2) of the Demand *viz.* Rs. 1328 for the staff for the Kovalam saltfactory and for the Tattarippu Odai Salt factory was put to vote and the grant was made.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows:

AYES 37.

1	Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	20	Mr. E. K. Kunjuraman
2	,, K. C. Abraham	21	,, K. M. Kuriakose
3	,, T. K. Alexander	22	,, C. O. Madhavan
4	,, V. T. Chacko	23	,, K. Madhavan
5	,, C. V. Chandrasekharan	24	,, K. Mahomed
6	,, S. Chattanatha Karayalar	25	,, P. C. Narayanan Bhattatiripad
7	,, Antony George	26	Smt. T. Narayani Amma
8	,, K. George	27	Mr. G. Nilakantan
9	,, M. Mahomed Haneef	28	,, N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
10	,, S. J. Nair	29	Rao Sahib S. Paramesvara Aiyar
11	,, M. K. Janardana Kamath	30	Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
12	,, T. S. Jayanthan Nambootiri	31	K. Paramesvaran Pillai
13	,, N. John Joseph	32	,, V. Ramakrishna Panickar
14	,, K. C. Karunakaran	33	,, R. Raman Pillai
15	,, T. T. Kesavan Sastri	34	,, K. Sankaran
16	,, K. M. Krishnan	35	,, T. C. Thommen
17	,, C. S. Krishnaswami Aiyar	36	,, John Whitely Tolson
18	Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	37	,, G. B. E. Truscott
19	Mr. C. V. Kunjuraman		

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NOES—21.

1	Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan	12	Mr. Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
2	,, A. Easvara Pillai (*Kottara kara-*	13	,, P. K. Narayana Pillai
3	,, Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar	14	,, S. Nilakanta Pillai
4	,, E. V. Krishna Pillai	15	,, Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon
5	,, N. K. Krishna Pillai	16	,, Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
6	,, Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai	17	,, Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai
7	,, T. Krishna Pillai	18	,, M. Sivatanu Pillai
8	,, K. Kunjukrishna Pillai	19	,, A. Thanu Pillai
9	,, M. K. Madhavan Pillai	20	,, V. K. Velappan Nair
10	,, M. N. Nair	21	,, T. P. Velayudhan Pillai
11	,, K. A. Narayana Pillai		

NEUTRALS.—4.

1	Mr. K. R. Elenkath	3	Mr. N. E. Varughese
2	,, A. Easvara Pillai (*Kalkulam II*)	4	,, S. Thiraviam Nadar

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: For 37 ; against 21 ; and neutrals 4.

The motion is carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXIV—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 700 under Demand XXIV—Stationery and Printing. This grant is intended for the completion of the stock-taking work that has been started in the Government Press. A provision was made for this purpose in the budget for the current year and an Assistant Engineer with some staff has been engaged in taking the stock of the type plant in the Government Press and in the Central Prison Press for about 6 months. The period will be over by the 16th Edavam. The stock-taking officer recently reported that the work could not be completed within the period of six months and that to complete it he would require at least six months more. So far, he has finished the stock-taking of the type plant in the type store in the Government Press and in the Central Prison Press. The stock-taking of the type plant in the various composing sections in the Government Press has yet to be done. The officer has also to prepare an inventory of the different varieties of types, compare them with the book balances and prescribe proper registers to be maintained hereafter. It is proposed therefore to give him an extension of six months for the completion of this work. The Assistant Engineer has been devoting his full time to this work for the last six moths and he is being paid his substantive pay plus deputation allowance which comes to about Rs. 300 a month. But the more important portion of the work having been finished, the staff that has been working under him having gained some

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